

Fig. 13 illustrates a partial perspective view of catheter 300 including thin-film shape memory alloy actuator array 10. Catheter body 310 is shown in cut-away to reveal the presence of actuator array 10 adjacent to the catheter body. Catheter body 310 includes sidewalls 320 and 330. In this example, actuator array 10 is shown adjacent to a portion of the interior sidewall, although actuator array 10 can also be located adjacent to the exterior sidewall 320. Catheter 300 is shown including actuator array 10, although those having skill in the art will readily recognize that any of the disclosed actuators can be implemented as part of a catheter like catheter 300.

In the Drawings

Please add Figure 13 as shown in the attached drawing.

In the Claims

81. (Amended) The shape memory alloy catheter as recited in claim 30 wherein the addressable thin-film heater element is operable to heat at least one micro-actuator for varying the relative stiffness of the shape memory alloy portion.

90. (Amended) The shape memory alloy catheter as recited in claim 74 wherein the addressable thin-film heater element is operable to heat at least one micro-actuator for varying the relative stiffness of the shape memory alloy portion.

REMARKS

Claims 26-30, 32 and 74-95 are pending.

Appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowability of claims 26-30, 32, 74-80, 83-89 and 92-95.

Claims 81, 82, 90, and 91 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 81 and 90 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). In response, Figure 13 has been added. Additionally, two paragraphs (as illustrated above) have been added to